medical (The) Colleges xxx

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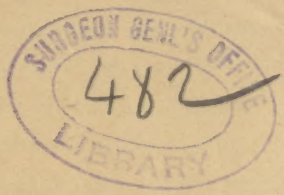

THE MEDICAL COLLEGES AND THE HOSPITAL FEE.

We take pleasure in placing before our readers some interesting matter, in the shape of extracts from the daily press and the correspondence between representatives of the medical colleges of this city and the Board of Public Works and Affairs, bearing upon the payment of the hospital fee charged the several colleges for each matriculant. In this connection it may be well to state that the effort of the colleges to have the law requiring the payment of such hospital fee abolished recently failed to pass before the City Council, and the law, therefore, remains unchanged. The attention of the Board was called to the fact that, while the Medical Department of the University of Nashville and Vanderbilt University, and the Meharry Medical College (the colored medical school), paid into the city treasury amounts corresponding to the number of students listed in their official announcements, the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee paid for two hundred and eighteen, while the catalogue of that school claimed two hundred and ninety-four students. The matter was referred by the Board of Public Works to the City Attorney for a correct interpretation of the law—in other words, for his opinion as to what constitutes a

bona fide student, and to what class of monstrosities the *non-bona fide* student belongs.

The whole trouble has originated from an ambitious desire on the part of a medical school to swell the list of students in its catalogue by inserting not only the names of dental students, but also those of students who were students only by intention. As shown in the appended report, the City Attorney has decided that the law should apply to all students whose names appear in the catalogue, and the Board will on these grounds demand of the new school payment of hospital fees for those students whose names appear in the catalogue but who failed to appear and avail themselves of the privileges accorded, for this consideration, to all *bona fide* medical students.

CLINICAL PRIVILEGES—A QUESTION BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AFFAIRS.

A committee from the Medical Departments of University of Nashville and Vanderbilt University called upon the Board of Public Works and Affairs and asked for an explanation of a discrepancy in the published announcement of the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee in which they publish 294 matriculates when they only paid the city for 218 hospital privileges. The committee also claimed that a similar discrepancy occurred last year.

The law specifies that each medical school shall pay the city $5 for each matriculate and undergraduate.

The committee further called the attention of the Board to the published list of the Medical Departments of the University of Nashville and Vanderbilt University, which published 305 matriculates and paid into the city treasury $1,525, which is $5 for each of the 305 matriculates published.—*Nashville Banner of Agust* 8, 1892.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the American.

The *Banner* published in their issue this afternoon a discrepancy in the number of students published in the announcement of the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee and those paid for by the faculty of the school for hospital privileges.

We desire to state to the public that when the Board of Public Works and Affairs were paid, a satisfactory explanation to them was made, viz.: that on the register of the Medical and Dental Departments of the University of Tennessee both dental and medical students were matriculated, and

as the law only requires medical matriculates to be paid for (the dental students not receiving hospital advantages) the number of dental students and also those who matriculated the session previously but did not attend last session was of course subtracted from the sum total.

In the announcement both medical and dental students are published, from the fact that the latter (dental) receive more or less medical didactic instruction. Respectfully, DUNCAN EVE, M.D., Dean.

—*The American August* 9. 1892.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August 10, 1892.

To the Honorable Board of Public Works:

Gentlemen—In an interview with you on Monday last in regard to the discrepancy existing between the official announcement of the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee, as to the number of students in said Department and the number of matriculants reported and paid for in accordance with the requirements of the bill establishing the City Hospital, we understood that no explanation had been made. In a card over the signature of the Dean of the Medical Department of that institution, which appeared in *The American* yesterday, it is stated that at the time payment was made a "satisfactory explanation had been made." This little difference forces us to appear before you again, and in doing so we wish to call your attention to the card published. In this card the Dean states that a certain number of the names published in the Annual Announcement of the Medical Department were dental students, and certain others matriculated the previous session, but did not attend the last session. In the Annual Announcement, which is the official report of the school—published over the signature of this same Dean—all these names are included as matriculants in the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee, during the past session. Now, we would ask: From which of these sources must you get your information as to the correct number of matriculants in the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee? the card in *The American* of Tuesday morning, August 9th, published over the signature of the Dean, or the official announcement, published by order of the Faculty, over the signature of the same Dean? In this official announcement no mention is made of "dental students" or of matriculants who did not attend, but all purport to be, and the public are led to believe, were *bona fide* medical students in attendance during the session of 1891-92.

THOS. MENEES, M.D.
W. G. EWING, M.D.
W. L. NICHOL, M.D.
Committee.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August 12, 1892.

Duncan Eve, A.M., M.D.:

Dear Sir:—As you are aware, our city ordinance requires medical schools enjoying clinical facilities at the City Hospital to pay to the City Treasurer

the sum of five dollars annually for each *bona fide* under-graduate on the annual register of matriculation of such schools."

We have received a catalogue of the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee for the session of 1891-2, showing matriculates 294. We have also received a catalogue of the Dental Department of the University of Tennessee for session 1891-2, showing matriculates 34.

On the third day of March, 1892, the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee paid to the city the sum of $1,090, being $5.00 for 218 matriculates, and, as we remember, three others were satisfactorily accounted for.

Deducting these 221 and the Dental Students, 34 (a total of 255) from the 294 matriculates, there will appear to be 39 matriculates in the Medical Department for whom no fee was paid to the city. Please explain to us why we should not collect the fee on these remaining 39 matriculates. We will be obliged if you will submit your reply in writing so that we may have the date before us when explaining the matter to others who have called it to our attention, and who have a right to demand that we comply with the law.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AFFAIRS.
Per JOHN L. KENNEDY.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August 18, 1892.

Board of Public Works and Affairs:

Gentlemen—It appears that a discrepancy of 39 students exists between our published medical and dental lists of last session and the actual number upon which we paid hospital tax to the city. We offer the following explanation: At the close of the preceding session a number of students registered their names, that they might have priority in seats and privileges during the coming session. Many of these registered students came up as contemplated, but it seems that 39 of the medical and dental lists, for reasons best known to themselves, failed to attend.

The law which you quote specifies that *medical schools* shall pay into the city treasury the sum of $5.00, annually for each "bona fide" under-graduate on the annual register of matriculation of such schools. This law evidently contemplates two classes of students on the annual register, one "bona fide" the other non "bona fide," otherwise the law would have read on all matriculates. No other rational construction can be placed upon this language.

These 39 students were non "bona fide." They simply registered, paid nothing, did not attend school, and received no hospital advantages. We must presume that the city does not want to tax us for advantages which our students never received. We settled with you for all "bona fide" students who attended and received hospital clinical advantages. We submitted the books by which the settlement between our members was made. If not satisfied with the examination, the books are still subject to your inspection; and now that we have paid you for all "bona fide" students, we respectfully suggest that your interest in the matter ceases.

As to the moral aspect of the case whether we should have printed these non "bona fide" students in our list of matriculates is again, we respectfully suggest, no affair of yours. We feel that it was a courtesy due these young men who registered with us, but could not then attend, to include their names, and so acted.

If our business would allow us time to look carefully into the private affairs of other schools, we have not the least doubt but that we could find abundant precedent for this publication and probably irregularities much graver.

Respectfully,

DUNCAN EVE, M.D., Dean
J. S. CAIN, Treas.

NASHVILLE, Aug. 22, 1892.

To the Hon. Board of Public Works :

Gentlemen:—In the explanation made to you honorable Board relative to the discrepancies which exist between the published list of students in the annual annoucement and the number of students paid for under the Hospital Act by the Medical Department of the University of Tennessee, a distinction is drawn between "bona fide and non bona fide" students. No such distinction, however, is noted in the catalogue. These non bona fide students are defined to be students who registered, paid nothing, and did not attend, but whose names were published in the catalogue as a courtesy to them.

Courtesy? Bah! Was it this same courtesy which induced them to exhibit their catalogue of 1891-2, which contained about sixty-three more names than paid for to the city, to students last fall to prove that they were the largest school in the city, thus creating a false impression upon the young strangers? Did this same courtesy prompt them to point out the names of these "non bona fide" students?

We think not. It would appear that these non bona fide students are a new species, since they do not come within the definition given by authorities, manufactured for a special purpose, either to deceive the public or your honorable Board. We would again call your attention to the official list published in the annual announcement by authority of the Faculty, in which no note is made of this "non bona fide" species, and ask from which source are you to draw your conclusion—this official record signed by the Dean or the private statement made by the Dean when called upon to settle? It is further stated in this explanation that the law evidently contemplates two classes of students. This may be true; but it certainly could not contemplate an absurdity, which it would do if it contemplated this new species, which can exist only in the imagination of individuals and brought out on special occasions and for particular purposes.

In this same explanation it is suggested that your interest in the matter ceases. We do not wonder at this, for who, when under indictment, would not be thankful for a "nolle prosequi" to be entered?

In the concluding paragraph of this explanation, it is said that "if our business would allow us to look into the private affairs of other schools, we have

not the least doubt but that we could find abundant precedent for this publication." We presume that if your honorable Board had have found any discrepancies between the published official list and the private statement of the officials of other schools, you would have made an investigation and demanded an explanation. It certainly would have been your duty to have done so and not to have ceased these demands until you were thoroughly satisfied, regardless of the appeal of interested parties to "cease."

In conclusion, we will say that we have not dealt in intimations nor said any thing about private affairs. We have confined ourselves to facts, and facts obtained from public sources; and out of their own mouths they stand convicted of either practicing a fraud upon the public or a fraud upon your honorable Board. Which is it?

THOS. MENEES, M.D.,
W. G. EWING, M.D.,
W. L. NICHOL, M.D.,
Committee.

Board of Public Works and Affairs:

Gentlemen:—You have submitted the correspondence between your Board and the two medical colleges of the city, asking my advice upon the issues therein contained. The only question in which you are interested is, how and by what means should the city ascertain the amount due it by the respective colleges for clinical privileges etc., afforded them at the City Hospital. The ordinance establishing the hospital, prescribes "as a condition of said privilege the payment to the City Treasury by each school enjoying such privileges the sum of five dollars annually for each bona fide undergraduate on the annual register of matriculation of such schools, this sum to be due on March 1st of each year, and the matriculation books of said schools on that day shall be produced for the ascertainment of the sum due the city for such privileges upon matriculation."

It will be noticed from the above quotation:

First, that the amount to be paid is regulated by the number of bona fide under-graduates who matriculate, and not by the number of matriculates who may actually attend. It matters not how many actual attendants there may be at lectures or other exercises at a given college, nor how many of such attendants of the college participate in the clinical exercises at the hospital, the amount to be charged is to be determined exclusively by the number of bona fide matriculates.

The second observation of the above quotation is, that in computing the amount due, ascertaining how much it is, you are to examine the register of the matriculation itself; but as you are to charge for only such names as were entered upon this register in good faith, I am of the opinion that it would be competent to look to outside evidence, if the face of the register itself does not show it, to ascertain whether the entries were made in good faith or not.

For instance, if it should be made to appear that fictitious names are on the register, no charge should be made for them, as it is only the bona fide matriculates for whom you charge. The above are the general precepts by

which you should be governed in making your settlement with the colleges for the amount they owe for clinical privileges.

To the case referred to, it appears from the correspondence before me that the register of the University of Tennessee for the year 1891-2 contains 260 matriculates in its Medical Department, and of this number the college has paid for 221, leaving 39 unaccounted for, and it is these 39 names that is the subject of controversy. Were it shown that these names were fictitious or entered upon the register of the University of Tennessee to subserve some object of its own, then no charge should be made, for they were not entered in good faith, and it is to the good faith entries that you are restricted in making up your account. But this is not the case. On the other hand, it appears from the statement of Drs. Eve and Cain that these names were all entered in good faith.

It matters not that they did not attend the school after matriculation. Having matriculated in good faith, the liability of the college accrued, and having once accrued, could not be changed by subsequent determination of matriculates not to attend. It is unnecessary to add that the statement of Drs. Eve and Cain shows an indebtedness to the city for the thirty-nine names in the controversy.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ANDERSON, City Attorney.

September 2, 1892.